

August 1, 2013

**Comments from Germany and Spain on Approval by mail: IFC Investment Project 1
“Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security”, and Technical
Assistance Project 2 “Feasibility Study for a Pilot Program of Climate Resilient
Housing in the Coastal Region” (Bangladesh)**

Dear colleagues,
thank you very much for the submission of the above mentioned projects, which we
are happy to support.

Please find enclosed some detailed Joint Spanish-German comments on proposed
project: Bangladesh - Technical Services for Investment Project 1 “Promoting Climate
Resilient Agriculture and Food Security”, Feasibility Study for a Pilot Program of
Climate Resilient Housing in the Coastal Region. We would appreciate if these
comments would be reflected in the project design and implementation.

Kind regards

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OUR REF.:

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Joint Spanish-German Comments on proposed project:

Bangladesh

Technical Services for Investment Project 1 “Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security” Feasibility Study for a Pilot Program of Climate Resilient Housing in the Coastal Region

Summary

The project concepts are in line with the goals and targets outlined in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009, addressing especially pillar No. 1 (Food Security, Social Protection and Health) and No. 3 (Infrastructure) of the Action Plan. We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. We however would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

Technical Advisory Services for Investment Project 1

The proposal is consistent and builds on an appropriate approach by first conducting a scoping study and then proceeding to investments. The project focusses on private companies, particularly on large seed companies in Bangladesh, with the aim of improving their Research and Development capabilities. The project document makes no explicit

reference to national agricultural research, although relevant and appropriate research related to climate change adaptation is taking place, and useful results are being achieved in Bangladesh. **We therefore recommend the project to establish a link between the private companies and the national agricultural research institutions**, thereby ensuring that appropriate crop species and varieties, as well as agronomic practices are properly disseminated to the farmers. Moreover, **we would recommend the project to support training of the sale agents and suppliers of the companies** to enable appropriate and applicable advice being provided to their clients, the farmers, since they are often the only source of information to the farmers.

Furthermore, it would be important to assure that the agricultural extension workers of the Department of Agricultural Extension in charge of the project related polders are informed and involved in the project activities. At the same time the project should view carefully that the agricultural inputs, like seeds, are affordable to the farmers, especially to small scale farmers. **We recommend taking the above mentioned considerations concerning the involvement of the agricultural extension workers, as well as the affordability of the agricultural inputs, into account during project implementation.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

We very much welcome the gender-inclusive approach of the program. In particular, we appreciate that the approach not only considers the fact that women in Bangladesh are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts but also highlights the “critical and potentially transformative role” (p. 9) women can play in the agricultural sector for the benefit of their families. Further, we appreciate the gender-sensitive indicators at output and outcome level. In addition, however, **we would like to encourage you to apply the gender-sensitive approach also to the impact level, so as to track effectively how women and men benefit from the project activities. To this end, we recommend disaggregating as many of the impact level indicators as possible by gender, in particular the following indicators: (1) “Treatment farmers get 20% higher yield compared to the control farmers”; (2) “Farmer incremental revenue increased by 15%”; (3) and “Farmer household income increased by 20%”.**

Synergies with other donors – in particular German – Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

The development partners and the Government of Bangladesh have established the “*Local Consultative Group*” (LCG) as a joint platform for communication and coordination in the focus areas of Bangladesh’s development agenda. The *LCG Working Group on Climate Change and Environment* is co-chaired by the *Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)*

and a representative of the development partners (currently German Development Cooperation). Since the project is implemented under the overall responsibility of MoEF, **we highly recommend providing information about the progress of the PPCR project to and an active participation in the above mentioned LCG working group.**

As mentioned in our recent comments (22 April 2013) to the PPCR *Coastal Embankment Improvement Project Phase-I (CEIP-I)*, Germany is engaged with several bilateral projects in the coastal belt of Bangladesh, for example: 1) *Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Protection Forests*, where Germany is supporting the coastal rehabilitation in the Sundarbans region, focusing on participation of local stakeholders in managing and protecting the coastal impact zone. As the project, together with a German company, has developed a public private partnership which is collaborating with 1500 small-scale shrimp farmers in the project area, there is potential to cooperation regarding the shrimp production while considering ecological, economic and social aspects. 2) *Adaptation to the Climate Change in South Western Bangladesh* (Coastal Livelihoods Adaptation Project, CLAP), dealing with rehabilitation of livelihood and coastal infrastructure in Barguna, Patuakhali and Bhola. The implementation of both projects is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In order to avoid duplication of efforts, we recommend seeking close coordination and cooperation with CLAP. **We recommend close coordination and exchange between the proposed projects and other engagement in this area, such as the German-supported projects mentioned above, to avoid duplication of efforts and exploit synergies to the best extent possible.**